

## Annual earnings of young adults, by educational attainment

*Wages and salaries are influenced by many factors, including the employer's perception of the productivity and availability of workers with different levels of education and the economic conditions in the industries that typically employ workers with different levels of education. Annual earnings are influenced by the number of weeks worked in a year and the usual number of hours worked each week. The ratio of annual earnings of high school dropouts or college graduates to those of high school graduates is affected by all of these factors: It is a measure of the earnings disadvantage of not finishing high school and the earnings advantage of completing college.*

- In 1995, the median annual earnings of young adults aged 25–34 who had not completed high school were substantially lower than those of their counterparts who had completed high school (26 and 38 percent lower for males and females, respectively). Young adults who had completed a bachelor's degree or higher earned substantially more than those who had only completed high school (52 and 91 percent more for males and females, respectively).
- Between 1974 and 1995, the earnings advantage of obtaining a bachelor's degree or higher increased dramatically for males, rising from 14 to 52 percent.
- Since 1970, the earnings advantage of 25- to 34-year-olds with some college or a bachelor's degree or higher (relative to their counterparts who had completed high school) was generally greater for females than for males.

**Ratio\* of median annual earnings of wage and salary workers aged 25–34 whose highest education level was grades 9–11, some college, and a bachelor's degree or higher to those with a high school diploma, by sex: Selected years 1970–95**

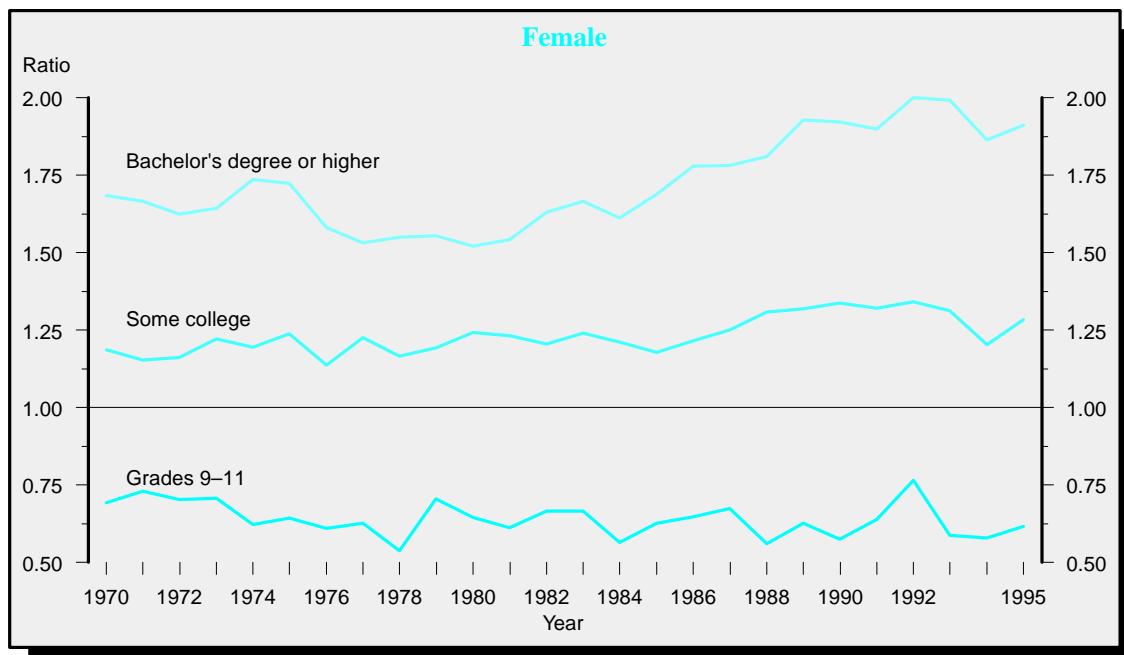
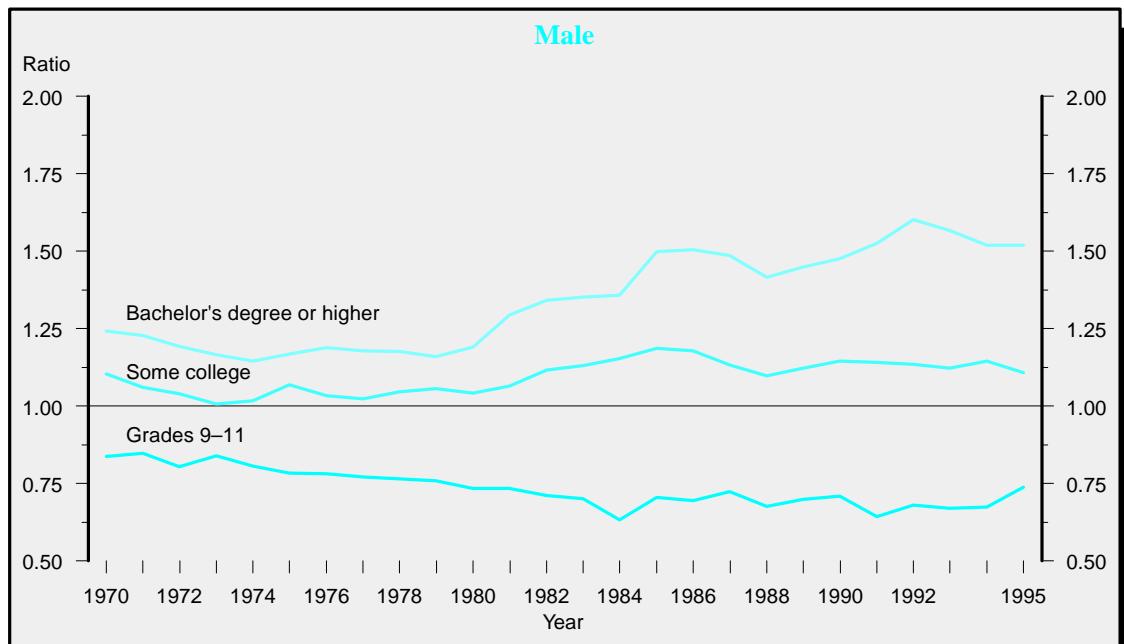
Year	Grades 9–11		Some college		Bachelor's degree or higher	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1970	0.84	0.69	1.10	1.19	1.24	1.68
1972	0.80	0.70	1.04	1.16	1.19	1.63
1974	0.81	0.62	1.02	1.19	1.14	1.74
1976	0.78	0.61	1.03	1.14	1.19	1.58
1978	0.77	0.54	1.05	1.17	1.18	1.55
1980	0.73	0.65	1.04	1.24	1.19	1.52
1982	0.71	0.66	1.12	1.21	1.34	1.63
1984	0.63	0.56	1.15	1.21	1.36	1.61
1986	0.69	0.65	1.18	1.21	1.50	1.78
1988	0.68	0.56	1.10	1.31	1.42	1.81
1990	0.71	0.58	1.14	1.34	1.48	1.92
1991	0.64	0.64	1.14	1.32	1.53	1.90
1992	0.68	0.76	1.13	1.34	1.60	2.00
1993	0.67	0.59	1.12	1.31	1.57	1.99
1994	0.68	0.58	1.14	1.20	1.52	1.86
1995	0.74	0.62	1.11	1.28	1.52	1.91

\* This ratio is most useful when compared to 1.0. For example, the ratio of 1.52 in 1995 for males whose highest education level was a bachelor's degree or higher means that they earned 52 percent more than males who had a high school diploma. The ratio of 0.74 in 1995 for males whose highest education level was grades 9–11 means that they earned 26 percent less than males who had a high school diploma.

NOTE: In 1992, the Current Population Survey (CPS) changed the questions used to obtain the educational attainment of respondents. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 22* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Ratio\* of median annual earnings of wage and salary workers aged 25–34 whose highest education level was grades 9–11, some college, or a bachelor's degree or higher to those with a high school diploma: 1970–95**



\* This ratio is most useful when compared to 1.0. For example, the ratio of 1.52 in 1995 for males whose highest education level was a bachelor's degree or higher means that they earned 52 percent more than males who had a high school diploma. The ratio of 0.74 in 1995 for males whose highest education level was grades 9–11 means that they earned 26 percent less than males who had a high school diploma.

NOTE: In 1992, the Current Population Survey (CPS) changed the questions used to obtain the educational attainment of respondents. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 22* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Ratio\* of median annual earnings of wage and salary workers aged 25–34 whose highest education level was grades 9–11, some college, and a bachelor's degree or higher to those with a high school diploma, by sex: Selected years 1970–95**

Year	Grades 9–11		Some college		Bachelor's degree or higher	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1970	0.84	0.69	1.10	1.19	1.24	1.68
1972	0.80	0.70	1.04	1.16	1.19	1.63
1974	0.81	0.62	1.02	1.19	1.14	1.74
1976	0.78	0.61	1.03	1.14	1.19	1.58
1978	0.77	0.54	1.05	1.17	1.18	1.55
1980	0.73	0.65	1.04	1.24	1.19	1.52
1982	0.71	0.66	1.12	1.21	1.34	1.63
1984	0.63	0.56	1.15	1.21	1.36	1.61
1986	0.69	0.65	1.18	1.21	1.50	1.78
1988	0.68	0.56	1.10	1.31	1.42	1.81
1990	0.71	0.58	1.14	1.34	1.48	1.92
1991	0.64	0.64	1.14	1.32	1.53	1.90
1992	0.68	0.76	1.13	1.34	1.60	2.00
1993	0.67	0.59	1.12	1.31	1.57	1.99
1994	0.68	0.58	1.14	1.20	1.52	1.86
1995	0.74	0.62	1.11	1.28	1.52	1.91

\* This ratio is most useful when compared to 1.0. For example, the ratio of 1.52 in 1995 for males whose highest education level was a bachelor's degree or higher means that they earned 52 percent more than males who had a high school diploma. The ratio of 0.74 in 1995 for males whose highest education level was grades 9–11 means that they earned 26 percent less than males who had a high school diploma.

NOTE: In 1992, the Current Population Survey (CPS) changed the questions used to obtain the educational attainment of respondents. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 22* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Table 33-1 Median annual earnings (in 1996 constant dollars) of wage and salary workers aged 25–34 whose highest education level was a bachelor's degree or higher, by sex and race/ethnicity: 1970–95**

Year	Male				Female			
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
<b>All wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$42,174	\$41,965	(*)	(*)	\$28,368	\$24,640	\$30,643	(*)
1971	42,155	41,746	\$37,496	(*)	28,720	26,232	29,291	(*)
1972	42,773	42,442	39,432	(*)	28,484	25,797	29,427	(*)
1973	42,552	41,923	36,905	(*)	28,170	25,626	27,896	(*)
1974	38,716	39,395	32,152	(*)	25,023	24,867	26,606	(*)
1975	36,527	36,901	32,630	(*)	24,828	24,391	27,526	(*)
1976	37,612	37,928	35,138	(*)	23,844	23,468	27,499	(*)
1977	37,516	37,888	33,691	(*)	23,469	23,045	27,318	(*)
1978	37,741	37,858	35,946	\$36,078	23,198	22,986	24,065	(*)
1979	36,476	36,687	31,964	31,595	23,480	23,467	23,934	(*)
1980	34,845	35,426	29,128	30,411	22,817	22,675	24,611	(*)
1981	35,253	35,701	29,853	28,227	22,575	22,414	23,417	\$23,529
1982	33,943	34,303	29,377	32,626	23,281	23,106	24,271	22,163
1983	34,450	34,947	27,360	30,767	24,089	23,987	24,840	23,668
1984	35,411	36,519	28,545	30,345	24,330	24,235	25,168	23,944
1985	37,609	38,019	34,722	37,363	25,561	25,559	24,805	25,483
1986	37,911	38,580	29,587	38,183	26,821	26,697	26,504	25,734
1987	38,034	39,661	26,272	34,917	27,484	27,277	28,031	28,248
1988	37,102	39,198	28,072	29,027	27,454	27,670	27,285	25,537
1989	37,043	38,607	27,409	26,809	28,145	28,131	27,037	29,357
1990	35,325	36,200	30,934	32,233	27,792	28,043	27,756	24,976
1991	35,552	36,262	27,112	29,630	26,893	27,461	24,674	22,849
1992	35,599	36,792	29,893	29,679	27,958	28,079	26,643	26,809
1993	34,581	35,492	28,689	28,955	27,535	27,978	24,503	24,508
1994	33,956	35,563	25,497	29,440	27,125	27,527	24,581	24,622
1995	33,367	35,839	29,536	29,235	26,611	26,800	23,053	26,176
<b>Year-round, full-time wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$45,156	\$45,375	(*)	(*)	\$32,276	\$32,042	(*)	(*)
1971	44,679	45,106	(*)	(*)	31,488	31,640	\$31,019	(*)
1972	45,410	45,708	\$41,171	(*)	32,126	32,187	30,970	(*)
1973	45,590	46,178	39,732	(*)	31,968	31,879	32,879	(*)
1974	42,975	43,466	37,056	(*)	29,930	30,174	27,811	(*)
1975	41,005	41,311	34,530	(*)	29,885	30,072	28,354	(*)
1976	41,495	41,576	38,205	(*)	30,082	30,010	30,479	(*)
1977	41,117	36,682	30,661	(*)	29,170	26,702	25,177	(*)
1978	41,137	41,252	38,961	(*)	28,472	28,507	26,603	(*)
1979	39,995	39,984	38,478	(*)	28,198	28,377	26,131	(*)
1980	38,466	38,799	31,593	\$34,032	28,350	28,492	27,503	(*)
1981	38,628	38,859	34,306	36,072	28,362	28,543	26,343	(*)
1982	37,148	37,672	33,016	35,653	28,041	28,298	26,076	(*)
1983	38,828	39,281	33,397	33,729	28,034	28,346	26,018	\$26,451
1984	39,257	39,607	31,954	35,443	29,400	29,547	28,208	29,641
1985	40,077	40,860	37,518	40,262	30,663	31,119	26,654	30,056
1986	41,786	42,636	33,690	41,810	31,421	31,705	28,782	29,059
1987	42,050	42,796	32,420	38,651	30,803	31,311	28,852	30,690
1988	41,164	41,811	29,377	34,003	31,867	32,554	29,007	30,702
1989	40,467	41,849	29,594	33,235	32,686	32,806	30,222	32,450
1990	38,212	38,716	32,590	37,424	32,203	32,458	30,900	29,203
1991	40,520	41,221	31,579	36,518	31,307	31,658	27,088	27,997
1992	39,907	40,733	33,796	32,122	31,552	31,677	30,209	29,744
1993	39,188	39,942	29,833	32,918	32,541	32,962	28,071	28,026
1994	38,139	38,775	27,006	33,681	31,310	31,927	27,154	27,519
1995	38,033	39,313	31,428	34,087	30,750	31,120	26,669	29,235

\* Too few sample observations for a reliable estimate.

NOTE: In 1992, the Current Population Survey (CPS) changed the questions used to obtain the educational attainment of respondents. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 22* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Table 33-2 Median annual earnings (in 1996 constant dollars) of wage and salary workers aged 25–34 whose highest education level was grades 9–11, by sex and race/ethnicity: 1970–95**

Year	Male				Female			
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
<b>All wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$28,434	\$29,909	\$19,563	\$27,485	\$11,673	\$8,166	\$7,600	(*)
1971	29,088	30,003	20,032	24,148	12,562	9,187	8,804	(*)
1972	28,832	30,856	20,640	25,617	12,323	8,267	11,537	(*)
1973	30,608	32,431	22,433	23,386	12,110	9,833	10,607	(*)
1974	27,303	29,222	21,635	23,718	8,959	8,350	9,814	\$10,202
1975	24,493	26,416	17,662	21,361	9,258	8,934	9,692	(*)
1976	24,775	26,066	19,144	25,723	9,184	8,308	10,071	12,296
1977	24,574	26,670	18,757	23,261	9,591	8,934	10,593	11,538
1978	24,536	26,589	18,177	23,231	8,054	8,116	8,234	7,459
1979	23,885	26,082	18,606	21,163	10,648	10,697	10,389	10,121
1980	21,480	23,272	16,259	21,859	9,680	9,243	10,864	10,356
1981	19,989	21,171	14,636	20,759	8,967	8,726	8,309	11,558
1982	18,016	18,985	14,972	16,543	9,500	9,031	10,181	11,547
1983	17,856	19,425	11,999	16,719	9,606	9,268	10,197	9,433
1984	16,502	17,440	11,404	18,175	8,511	8,622	7,865	9,208
1985	17,672	19,368	13,706	17,360	9,489	9,279	9,093	10,779
1986	17,498	18,619	15,269	17,696	9,741	9,474	10,571	8,706
1987	18,501	20,480	15,081	16,353	10,391	11,224	8,075	10,266
1988	17,740	20,037	11,428	15,625	8,478	7,955	8,722	9,646
1989	17,821	19,971	11,829	15,519	9,145	9,587	6,579	10,477
1990	16,973	18,729	13,431	14,967	8,327	8,324	5,850	9,492
1991	15,007	17,307	12,055	14,097	9,029	9,028	7,040	9,415
1992	15,122	17,384	10,551	13,886	10,682	11,192	8,448	10,848
1993	14,761	17,133	11,328	13,150	8,114	7,866	6,535	9,406
1994	15,094	17,269	10,970	13,568	8,415	9,113	7,757	7,029
1995	16,229	17,952	12,013	14,049	8,581	9,306	7,203	7,964
<b>Year-round, full-time wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$30,663	\$32,346	\$22,814	\$29,254	\$17,614	\$18,296	\$15,740	(*)
1971	30,607	32,479	24,087	25,609	17,349	17,929	16,089	(*)
1972	31,574	33,626	23,852	28,853	18,021	18,929	16,685	(*)
1973	32,295	34,898	24,384	(*)	19,050	19,800	16,030	(*)
1974	31,145	32,421	26,070	(*)	16,910	17,405	15,023	(*)
1975	29,688	31,101	22,731	(*)	16,971	16,804	16,426	(*)
1976	29,087	30,726	23,554	28,450	17,227	18,594	15,725	(*)
1977	29,045	27,616	20,184	(*)	17,716	14,921	14,585	(*)
1978	28,414	30,058	22,522	26,271	18,283	18,802	16,775	(*)
1979	28,033	30,716	22,008	24,823	17,589	17,991	17,340	(*)
1980	25,510	28,602	17,804	25,427	16,526	16,918	16,420	(*)
1981	24,967	26,719	18,555	24,520	15,405	15,442	(*)	(*)
1982	24,215	25,774	19,313	20,297	16,347	16,234	17,752	(*)
1983	22,847	24,541	16,708	21,518	15,789	15,749	(*)	(*)
1984	22,958	24,888	16,164	24,211	16,346	17,249	12,984	(*)
1985	22,828	24,517	16,569	21,390	16,272	16,834	(*)	(*)
1986	22,853	24,457	17,235	22,291	16,484	17,292	15,229	(*)
1987	23,685	25,448	19,536	20,005	16,285	16,472	(*)	(*)
1988	22,695	24,580	18,464	20,225	14,634	14,906	13,846	(*)
1989	22,215	24,191	17,274	20,526	15,295	15,544	(*)	\$13,866
1990	20,966	23,298	16,466	19,524	15,124	16,518	(*)	13,282
1991	20,380	22,999	15,739	18,616	13,925	14,460	12,083	(*)
1992	19,464	22,792	17,399	16,318	15,102	16,487	14,496	(*)
1993	19,420	22,170	15,775	17,051	14,535	14,515	(*)	14,845
1994	19,259	21,785	17,866	15,982	14,251	15,852	(*)	12,497
1995	19,996	21,682	17,977	17,481	14,154	15,401	11,828	12,604

\* Too few sample observations for a reliable estimate.

NOTE: In 1992, the Current Population Survey (CPS) changed the questions used to obtain the educational attainment of respondents. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 22* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Table 33-3 Median annual earnings (in 1996 constant dollars) of wage and salary workers aged 25–34 whose highest education level was a high school diploma, by sex and race/ethnicity: 1970–95**

Year	Male				Female			
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
<b>All wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$33,948	\$34,551	\$25,196	\$30,115	\$16,846	\$13,583	\$14,699	\$14,586
1971	34,343	34,765	25,816	28,716	17,233	14,287	13,773	13,762
1972	35,837	36,455	27,568	32,252	17,527	14,807	14,526	15,125
1973	36,474	36,808	29,492	30,010	17,142	14,238	15,154	15,786
1974	33,824	34,573	28,866	31,911	14,410	14,028	15,783	17,001
1975	31,269	32,127	26,302	28,327	14,405	13,931	16,275	15,326
1976	31,653	32,627	23,948	28,770	15,074	14,596	17,310	14,649
1977	31,861	33,463	24,236	27,159	15,326	15,053	16,749	15,178
1978	32,069	33,620	24,691	28,739	14,965	14,542	17,290	14,997
1979	31,464	33,077	23,812	25,780	15,111	14,989	15,909	15,190
1980	29,248	30,416	21,523	23,649	15,006	15,068	15,036	14,544
1981	27,241	28,338	21,282	22,877	14,629	14,478	14,907	15,329
1982	25,316	26,427	19,487	22,379	14,287	14,142	14,713	14,430
1983	25,462	26,786	18,536	23,182	14,448	14,263	15,660	13,755
1984	26,079	28,114	17,438	23,711	15,092	15,084	14,906	15,219
1985	25,090	26,975	19,808	20,562	15,142	15,391	13,916	14,856
1986	25,203	27,032	17,488	21,362	15,065	15,264	13,496	15,431
1987	25,587	27,655	17,592	22,239	15,428	15,649	14,566	15,192
1988	26,204	27,568	20,504	22,319	15,161	15,539	14,149	14,979
1989	25,549	26,827	19,456	20,722	14,596	14,923	13,170	14,474
1990	23,926	25,561	18,581	19,344	14,462	14,821	13,273	13,138
1991	23,292	24,853	17,668	18,600	14,158	14,571	12,499	14,215
1992	22,222	23,782	16,320	19,183	13,976	14,489	12,486	13,539
1993	22,065	23,395	17,228	18,082	13,824	14,776	10,999	13,456
1994	22,361	23,510	16,977	18,666	14,544	15,112	13,636	13,367
1995	21,965	23,774	16,667	17,985	13,916	14,556	12,505	12,613
<b>Year-round, full-time wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$35,486	\$36,350	\$28,333	\$31,657	\$22,278	\$22,697	\$19,710	(*)
1971	35,864	36,596	28,811	32,383	21,998	22,054	21,523	(*)
1972	37,165	38,131	29,255	33,181	22,618	22,859	21,374	\$22,988
1973	37,658	38,361	32,110	33,388	22,056	22,142	21,859	22,617
1974	35,822	36,325	32,580	34,622	21,741	21,725	21,724	22,184
1975	34,407	34,944	31,264	31,080	21,820	21,738	22,323	21,107
1976	34,293	35,057	29,267	31,629	22,071	22,262	21,570	21,281
1977	35,235	31,028	27,760	27,597	22,419	19,302	19,821	18,742
1978	36,213	36,772	30,837	33,869	22,141	22,420	21,472	21,276
1979	34,680	35,721	28,094	29,743	21,445	21,766	20,023	19,999
1980	32,199	32,993	26,151	27,531	21,154	21,404	20,121	20,375
1981	30,845	31,856	26,671	26,500	20,284	20,494	19,930	19,050
1982	29,782	31,019	24,666	26,528	19,906	20,072	19,032	19,772
1983	30,002	31,460	22,305	26,453	20,105	20,441	19,167	19,374
1984	30,863	32,076	21,458	28,123	20,519	21,121	18,372	19,853
1985	29,262	30,845	23,267	23,962	20,796	21,373	17,852	20,246
1986	29,315	30,569	23,110	26,211	20,733	21,095	17,711	22,296
1987	29,379	30,616	21,987	26,837	20,983	21,395	18,768	20,516
1988	28,937	30,078	22,454	26,149	20,502	21,122	17,798	19,820
1989	27,758	29,051	23,052	24,045	20,370	20,599	18,850	19,809
1990	26,558	28,638	20,606	22,347	19,671	20,126	17,189	17,577
1991	25,916	27,705	19,918	22,731	20,107	20,576	18,221	19,429
1992	25,437	26,959	19,243	22,331	19,814	20,351	18,559	19,743
1993	24,401	26,097	20,164	21,360	19,476	20,576	15,919	18,038
1994	25,117	26,227	21,300	21,884	18,929	19,507	16,953	18,219
1995	24,558	26,314	20,072	20,654	17,985	18,672	16,760	17,186

\* Too few sample observations for a reliable estimate.

NOTE: In 1992, the Current Population Survey (CPS) changed the questions used to obtain the educational attainment of respondents. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 22* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Table 33-4 Median annual earnings (in 1996 constant dollars) of wage and salary workers aged 25–34 whose highest education level was some college, by sex and race/ethnicity: 1970–95**

Year	Male				Female			
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
All wage and salary workers								
1970	\$37,504	\$37,075	\$33,272	(*)	\$19,996	\$15,343	\$19,312	(*)
1971	36,436	36,111	30,416	(*)	19,866	15,622	19,868	(*)
1972	37,277	36,721	31,936	\$32,407	20,358	17,004	18,209	(*)
1973	36,758	36,595	30,466	31,494	20,946	17,778	20,981	(*)
1974	34,410	35,177	29,075	31,193	17,207	16,645	20,075	(*)
1975	33,422	34,265	28,338	28,758	17,853	17,276	20,909	(*)
1976	32,729	33,724	25,927	28,132	17,144	16,845	20,125	\$16,382
1977	32,600	33,786	27,692	26,182	18,782	18,617	20,098	17,174
1978	33,532	34,069	32,846	28,769	17,438	17,013	20,859	16,195
1979	33,216	34,119	28,005	29,953	18,030	18,081	19,673	17,301
1980	30,486	31,358	25,134	28,735	18,637	18,761	18,710	16,143
1981	29,019	30,014	24,063	26,196	18,019	17,941	18,132	19,235
1982	28,273	29,526	20,225	25,227	17,225	17,014	17,788	18,476
1983	28,813	29,836	24,316	26,266	17,915	18,031	17,231	18,622
1984	30,063	31,155	21,241	26,544	18,289	18,055	18,813	18,883
1985	29,801	30,975	22,209	26,115	17,842	18,293	16,303	16,542
1986	29,705	31,033	23,132	27,095	18,292	18,415	17,347	19,454
1987	28,979	29,944	22,707	25,340	19,290	19,088	19,371	20,855
1988	28,765	29,834	22,776	24,572	19,845	20,181	18,745	17,137
1989	28,682	29,833	23,411	25,521	19,242	19,328	19,133	18,587
1990	27,381	28,843	23,501	25,267	19,337	19,761	17,251	19,243
1991	26,570	28,485	20,497	24,434	18,710	19,185	16,327	18,318
1992	25,210	26,705	21,243	22,992	18,747	19,195	16,279	18,552
1993	24,777	26,283	20,138	21,326	18,140	18,537	16,277	17,331
1994	25,601	26,780	22,114	23,308	17,511	17,506	17,194	18,766
1995	24,366	26,065	22,624	19,585	17,866	18,311	17,727	15,347
Year-round, full-time wage and salary workers								
1970	\$39,552	\$40,074	\$35,321	(*)	\$24,991	\$25,098	\$24,980	(*)
1971	39,030	39,642	35,577	(*)	25,078	24,864	(*)	(*)
1972	39,691	40,539	33,919	(*)	26,260	26,688	(*)	(*)
1973	38,812	39,503	34,315	\$35,815	26,317	26,604	25,159	(*)
1974	37,130	37,708	32,864	34,375	24,797	24,790	24,042	(*)
1975	37,330	38,292	31,899	32,550	24,735	24,808	24,987	(*)
1976	37,202	37,768	31,775	34,586	24,667	24,962	23,683	(*)
1977	36,908	34,001	28,325	28,903	25,024	22,028	22,187	(*)
1978	37,139	37,422	36,565	31,360	24,176	24,155	24,359	(*)
1979	36,320	37,115	30,481	34,764	24,238	24,388	23,728	(*)
1980	33,865	34,749	28,047	32,495	23,088	23,286	21,649	\$23,041
1981	33,413	34,273	27,476	32,807	23,133	23,543	21,713	23,391
1982	33,073	33,867	25,650	28,321	23,525	23,820	22,894	21,341
1983	33,003	33,739	27,198	29,349	24,340	24,746	22,834	23,213
1984	33,408	34,488	26,584	30,493	23,720	24,163	21,345	22,853
1985	33,103	34,701	24,986	33,138	24,021	24,723	20,468	23,985
1986	33,514	35,250	27,006	29,697	23,941	24,575	21,038	23,317
1987	32,235	33,316	25,520	30,729	24,503	24,595	24,190	24,066
1988	33,182	34,446	27,897	28,245	24,721	25,045	23,730	26,837
1989	32,261	33,332	26,272	28,195	24,331	24,802	22,965	23,918
1990	31,255	32,234	27,209	27,995	24,098	24,664	21,288	22,013
1991	30,511	31,262	25,107	28,615	23,902	24,440	21,437	24,121
1992	29,674	30,232	26,803	27,045	23,665	24,142	20,775	24,297
1993	28,290	29,118	24,285	24,541	23,090	23,693	20,589	22,523
1994	28,191	29,079	24,599	25,239	22,574	22,783	21,013	23,618
1995	27,295	28,118	26,011	22,482	22,160	22,563	21,628	20,564

\* Too few sample observations for a reliable estimate.

NOTE: In 1992, the Current Population Survey (CPS) changed the questions used to obtain the educational attainment of respondents. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 22* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Table 33-5 Ratio\* of median annual earnings of wage and salary workers aged 25–34 whose highest education level was grades 9–11, some college, or a bachelor's degree or higher to those with a high school diploma, by sex: 1970–95**

Year	Grades 9–11		Some college		Bachelor's degree or higher	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1970	0.84	0.69	1.10	1.19	1.24	1.68
1971	0.85	0.73	1.06	1.15	1.23	1.67
1972	0.80	0.70	1.04	1.16	1.19	1.63
1973	0.84	0.71	1.01	1.22	1.17	1.64
1974	0.81	0.62	1.02	1.19	1.14	1.74
1975	0.78	0.64	1.07	1.24	1.17	1.72
1976	0.78	0.61	1.03	1.14	1.19	1.58
1977	0.77	0.63	1.02	1.23	1.18	1.53
1978	0.77	0.54	1.05	1.17	1.18	1.55
1979	0.76	0.70	1.06	1.19	1.16	1.55
1980	0.73	0.65	1.04	1.24	1.19	1.52
1981	0.73	0.61	1.07	1.23	1.29	1.54
1982	0.71	0.66	1.12	1.21	1.34	1.63
1983	0.70	0.66	1.13	1.24	1.35	1.67
1984	0.63	0.56	1.15	1.21	1.36	1.61
1985	0.70	0.63	1.19	1.18	1.50	1.69
1986	0.69	0.65	1.18	1.21	1.50	1.78
1987	0.72	0.67	1.13	1.25	1.49	1.78
1988	0.68	0.56	1.10	1.31	1.42	1.81
1989	0.70	0.63	1.12	1.32	1.45	1.93
1990	0.71	0.58	1.14	1.34	1.48	1.92
1991	0.64	0.64	1.14	1.32	1.53	1.90
1992	0.68	0.76	1.13	1.34	1.60	2.00
1993	0.67	0.59	1.12	1.31	1.57	1.99
1994	0.68	0.58	1.14	1.20	1.52	1.86
1995	0.74	0.62	1.11	1.28	1.52	1.91

\* This ratio is most useful when compared to 1.0. For example, the ratio of 1.52 in 1995 for males whose highest education level was a bachelor's degree or higher means that they earned 52 percent more than males who had a high school diploma. The ratio of 0.74 in 1995 for males whose highest education level was grades 9–11 means that they earned 26 percent less than males who had only a high school diploma.

NOTE: In 1992, the Current Population Survey (CPS) changed the questions used to obtain the educational attainment of respondents. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 22* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Table S33 Standard errors for the text table in Indicator 33**

Year	Grades 9–11		Some college		Bachelor's degree or higher	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1970	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.06
1972	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.05
1974	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.06
1976	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.05
1978	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.05
1980	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04
1982	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.05
1984	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.04
1986	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.04
1988	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.03
1990	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04
1991	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04
1992	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.05
1993	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.05
1994	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.05
1995	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.06

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Table S33-1 Standard errors for table 33-1**

Year	Male				Female			
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
<b>All wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$713	\$785	—	—	\$781	\$1,272	\$2,058	—
1971	663	773	\$2,338	—	495	1,100	1,508	—
1972	619	722	3,772	—	573	955	1,472	—
1973	597	707	2,572	—	591	746	3,043	—
1974	553	684	3,166	—	575	724	1,362	—
1975	594	746	2,899	—	473	584	960	—
1976	549	624	3,185	—	506	662	2,363	—
1977	581	669	2,656	—	511	654	1,946	—
1978	480	573	2,967	\$5,198	515	617	1,648	—
1979	454	520	2,868	3,594	341	413	1,189	—
1980	531	609	1,993	3,582	365	444	1,482	—
1981	451	526	2,737	4,099	484	595	1,897	\$2,638
1982	403	495	2,257	2,845	450	554	1,125	2,583
1983	455	568	2,383	3,356	343	443	944	2,834
1984	716	818	1,657	2,788	341	414	1,453	2,541
1985	383	473	2,692	3,433	436	543	1,174	2,724
1986	445	519	2,294	3,423	458	578	1,368	2,053
1987	551	781	2,400	3,468	400	531	905	1,528
1988	833	938	985	2,862	343	441	888	2,671
1989	634	605	1,416	5,181	319	384	1,173	2,530
1990	607	563	1,241	2,872	486	594	1,652	2,262
1991	369	388	2,001	2,755	467	512	1,040	2,391
1992	362	880	3,472	2,728	386	384	1,587	2,042
1993	397	850	1,003	2,348	387	431	1,565	1,924
1994	489	902	1,465	2,170	316	351	1,741	1,820
1995	602	836	1,548	2,255	313	348	1,543	1,706
<b>Year-round, full-time wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$674	\$754	—	—	\$660	\$785	—	—
1971	650	754	—	—	608	726	\$1,810	—
1972	593	687	\$3,885	—	584	701	1,837	—
1973	815	947	2,268	—	561	644	2,786	—
1974	657	756	2,869	—	475	546	1,520	—
1975	661	769	2,927	—	505	619	1,070	—
1976	524	613	3,753	—	431	510	1,985	—
1977	470	683	2,599	—	430	549	950	—
1978	474	563	2,201	—	382	450	1,702	—
1979	515	615	3,033	—	549	641	1,603	—
1980	486	558	1,419	\$3,690	457	549	1,688	—
1981	471	578	2,452	5,352	375	453	1,456	—
1982	651	762	2,120	2,678	342	483	744	—
1983	584	629	1,993	1,822	427	506	925	\$1,675
1984	433	491	1,616	5,072	518	647	1,934	2,444
1985	590	969	1,379	2,862	344	451	1,519	2,677
1986	756	798	2,328	3,079	357	444	1,374	1,866
1987	410	484	2,242	1,963	324	636	725	1,840
1988	438	504	2,634	2,778	565	692	816	2,553
1989	503	827	1,576	4,508	415	519	1,161	2,805
1990	388	588	1,237	2,864	372	467	880	2,262
1991	645	586	2,313	3,285	398	540	1,472	1,818
1992	394	424	2,249	1,529	510	601	1,132	1,665
1993	443	510	1,638	3,174	523	471	1,362	1,409
1994	392	422	1,369	3,076	551	460	896	1,911
1995	453	767	1,095	2,661	477	426	1,187	1,958

— Not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Table S33-2 Standard errors for table 33-2**

Year	Male				Female			
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
<b>All wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$640	\$693	\$1,179	\$1,493	\$769	\$820	\$1,011	—
1971	528	657	1,520	2,366	569	839	1,760	—
1972	737	824	1,971	2,124	517	862	1,213	—
1973	713	953	1,482	2,469	419	939	1,049	—
1974	668	825	2,422	1,900	627	821	1,006	\$3,124
1975	739	950	1,735	2,518	411	743	955	—
1976	640	975	1,730	2,267	626	860	1,177	1,798
1977	784	961	1,588	2,277	711	854	1,502	1,914
1978	769	958	1,103	3,208	330	665	1,244	1,969
1979	684	962	1,804	1,529	608	967	1,059	1,764
1980	574	888	693	1,482	634	860	1,527	1,628
1981	542	772	1,332	2,480	450	683	880	1,854
1982	540	690	1,456	2,009	568	708	1,242	1,719
1983	529	847	1,513	2,140	557	754	708	1,993
1984	486	695	719	1,849	560	728	1,907	1,676
1985	407	986	868	1,330	534	832	781	1,569
1986	473	1,108	873	1,688	533	612	925	2,286
1987	595	804	1,192	857	537	685	901	1,321
1988	623	811	1,033	885	468	740	987	1,599
1989	618	724	1,343	1,315	673	848	1,280	1,405
1990	595	694	885	1,709	566	786	1,099	1,312
1991	667	878	865	1,233	649	807	1,928	1,135
1992	626	661	1,158	673	485	615	1,833	1,192
1993	643	554	1,405	412	415	695	1,990	1,068
1994	568	640	1,608	628	600	809	2,035	1,220
1995	428	653	850	1,085	366	801	1,052	635
<b>Year-round, full-time wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$618	\$796	\$1,198	\$1,781	\$656	\$903	\$1,364	—
1971	521	788	2,514	2,440	645	847	1,476	—
1972	757	876	1,184	3,043	808	1,142	1,355	—
1973	878	1,000	1,536	—	754	914	1,974	—
1974	678	1,049	1,988	—	670	948	1,757	—
1975	768	952	2,268	—	895	1,005	2,556	—
1976	763	1,025	1,781	2,387	934	1,179	681	—
1977	752	845	2,014	—	630	892	2,270	—
1978	693	1,122	2,498	3,239	731	1,137	1,496	—
1979	1,067	1,243	1,216	2,130	710	1,099	1,907	—
1980	961	1,183	1,536	2,334	740	1,091	2,225	—
1981	901	981	1,560	2,108	711	831	—	—
1982	1,104	1,071	2,599	2,021	679	1,240	1,249	—
1983	857	901	2,428	2,504	843	1,261	—	—
1984	877	1,021	976	2,053	860	1,107	790	—
1985	630	900	1,343	2,203	660	941	—	—
1986	568	794	920	1,461	485	828	827	—
1987	612	898	1,292	1,589	540	721	—	—
1988	597	960	1,944	1,621	581	682	2,518	—
1989	596	798	1,000	1,061	558	1,043	—	\$1,134
1990	581	1,041	1,151	1,023	692	1,089	—	1,197
1991	633	696	1,170	905	437	769	1,215	—
1992	724	767	1,400	825	832	966	1,727	—
1993	737	734	2,444	1,014	811	948	—	1,458
1994	749	845	2,000	954	652	867	—	768
1995	708	837	1,801	999	630	681	1,290	469

— Not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Table S33-3 Standard errors for table 33-3**

Year	Male				Female			
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
<b>All wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$346	\$392	\$1,105	\$1,548	\$435	\$560	\$1,182	\$3,073
1971	390	434	1,103	1,789	443	557	1,461	2,058
1972	346	402	787	1,487	407	585	1,210	1,962
1973	364	431	1,370	2,174	376	543	962	1,268
1974	341	409	1,426	3,875	353	432	1,145	2,284
1975	355	423	1,201	2,121	374	516	1,104	1,194
1976	342	403	1,349	1,974	358	470	977	1,524
1977	379	536	1,427	1,975	347	451	851	1,459
1978	555	651	1,536	2,269	296	401	704	1,294
1979	446	445	1,004	1,309	324	433	787	1,326
1980	317	369	839	1,581	291	383	708	1,447
1981	327	405	1,079	1,772	269	352	830	877
1982	320	390	754	1,807	291	399	753	1,062
1983	323	391	656	1,614	286	357	689	1,133
1984	773	507	695	1,252	253	327	681	1,060
1985	311	482	725	1,224	231	296	727	1,113
1986	336	464	607	1,481	215	272	828	1,114
1987	392	426	930	1,267	219	285	582	945
1988	349	360	621	1,051	220	290	525	1,016
1989	251	296	764	869	219	287	649	739
1990	307	329	491	947	201	286	522	751
1991	287	312	734	928	221	360	569	1,212
1992	333	321	830	895	309	475	637	965
1993	251	293	457	673	327	427	732	779
1994	260	294	727	1,016	320	422	549	808
1995	265	465	733	929	380	420	301	620
<b>Year-round, full-time wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$350	\$428	\$1,065	\$1,619	\$382	\$451	\$1,447	—
1971	355	407	1,382	2,822	312	377	1,107	—
1972	338	463	895	1,697	395	501	1,297	\$2,073
1973	356	424	1,710	1,761	365	483	795	2,522
1974	342	411	1,433	1,711	339	412	1,315	1,262
1975	356	427	1,430	1,992	290	368	845	1,381
1976	382	551	1,563	1,934	329	412	859	1,668
1977	468	379	1,270	1,769	331	327	751	1,226
1978	439	476	1,924	2,857	338	443	859	1,595
1979	369	443	1,348	2,914	261	340	740	1,474
1980	320	387	1,491	2,037	228	277	812	1,138
1981	429	485	1,012	1,875	223	274	763	1,054
1982	435	521	1,160	1,292	234	301	697	1,613
1983	424	469	1,096	1,453	337	423	627	1,352
1984	325	390	1,006	2,237	325	420	568	1,307
1985	355	408	752	1,285	329	402	682	2,162
1986	315	386	1,290	1,249	326	390	876	964
1987	294	368	1,063	1,485	241	298	897	1,367
1988	292	464	617	1,560	247	326	896	1,152
1989	252	507	797	1,360	225	273	1,070	1,419
1990	262	550	477	897	230	276	970	1,133
1991	367	456	744	1,456	274	347	762	1,018
1992	388	441	662	1,224	375	468	674	1,408
1993	322	456	1,352	935	354	392	828	756
1994	341	359	993	973	392	430	899	1137
1995	405	369	779	781	382	415	649	672

— Not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Table S33-4 Standard errors for table 33-4**

Year	Male				Female			
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
<b>All wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$625	\$754	\$2,574	—	\$933	\$1,543	\$2,168	—
1971	668	795	2,875	—	704	1,332	2,366	—
1972	613	787	2,448	\$3,803	809	1,098	1,888	—
1973	567	679	1,925	3,083	695	978	1,724	—
1974	479	571	2,061	2,889	599	712	1,467	—
1975	510	614	2,083	2,870	545	673	2,004	—
1976	556	666	1,808	3,242	549	732	1,276	\$2,405
1977	583	726	1,674	2,346	481	644	1,145	3,343
1978	620	759	2,022	2,000	520	606	1,340	2,854
1979	457	543	1,503	3,752	427	511	1,378	2,609
1980	428	514	1,377	2,407	423	495	1,065	2,689
1981	425	587	1,448	3,159	331	419	941	1,811
1982	476	588	1,491	2,597	319	403	927	1,521
1983	521	638	1,313	2,174	366	476	979	1,711
1984	517	514	1,904	2,536	323	399	918	1,694
1985	391	457	1,228	2,851	337	559	812	1,531
1986	448	563	1,611	2,370	480	685	1,005	1,905
1987	407	480	944	2,314	437	538	1,480	1,616
1988	430	731	1,355	2,076	451	483	1,431	1,906
1989	477	528	1,250	1,772	368	484	992	1,847
1990	551	819	1,269	1,299	321	415	1,355	1,083
1991	551	573	1,166	1,208	342	397	961	1,320
1992	473	662	1,502	1,197	323	377	1,100	1,527
1993	421	484	1,001	1,644	297	366	990	881
1994	495	399	816	1,141	322	364	871	1,534
1995	488	371	958	1,140	315	404	915	1,118
<b>Year-round, full-time wage and salary workers</b>								
1970	\$607	\$775	\$2,095	—	\$630	\$794	\$1,843	—
1971	671	792	2,372	—	755	926	—	—
1972	632	739	2,005	—	645	756	—	—
1973	530	641	2,119	\$2,960	497	641	1,323	—
1974	465	563	1,904	2,046	626	769	2,066	—
1975	628	746	1,641	3,208	464	630	1,001	—
1976	563	657	2,409	3,670	448	605	973	—
1977	597	662	1,457	2,848	455	559	889	—
1978	458	556	1,752	3,063	458	572	1,357	—
1979	457	543	1,474	2,878	399	492	1,223	—
1980	527	630	1,438	2,393	289	354	869	\$2,689
1981	566	612	1,420	3,443	417	554	907	2,360
1982	431	518	1,636	2,542	425	553	1,312	1,798
1983	427	503	1,403	1,974	411	528	1,414	2,158
1984	395	771	2,067	2,443	356	438	720	1,270
1985	591	771	1,174	2,838	342	433	953	1,676
1986	657	797	1,175	2,060	335	426	916	1,139
1987	638	795	1,834	2,240	410	548	992	1,359
1988	590	675	1,561	1,646	562	718	1,259	3,278
1989	426	570	1,317	2,933	444	628	816	2,364
1990	385	491	1,358	2,128	353	419	1,107	1,579
1991	352	372	1,124	1,592	297	336	831	1,120
1992	353	388	1,541	1,809	306	347	993	1,561
1993	329	363	1,426	1,557	278	324	734	1,197
1994	308	464	1,662	1,206	312	379	673	1,177
1995	326	477	958	1,201	245	296	590	1,176

— Not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Table S33-5 Standard errors for table 33-5**

Year	Grades 9-11		Some college		Bachelor's degree or higher	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1970	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.06
1971	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.05
1972	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.05
1973	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.05
1974	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.06
1975	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.06
1976	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.05
1977	0.03	0.05	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.05
1978	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.05
1979	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04
1980	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04
1981	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04
1982	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.05
1983	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04
1984	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.04
1985	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04
1986	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.04
1987	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04
1988	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.03
1989	0.03	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04
1990	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04
1991	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04
1992	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.05
1993	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.05
1994	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.05
1995	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.06

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.